Remarks

Applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner for reconsideration and reexamination of the above-identified patent application. This Amendment places the instant patent application in condition for allowance. Applicant submits that this Amendment does <u>not</u> contain new matter or require an additional prior art search by the Examiner. In the Advisory Action mailed November 21, 2006, claims 16-20 were allowed and claims 1-7, 12, 13 and 15 were rejected.

Of the pending claims, allowed claim 16 is the only independent claim. Upon entry of this amendment claims 3-7 and 16-20 are pending in this application. In summary, all the remaining dependent claims (i.e., claims 17-20 and 3-7) are now dependent upon allowable independent claim 16. In this Amendment, only claim 3 has been amended so as to make it dependent upon previously allowed dependent claim 17. Claims 1, 2 and 12-15 have been cancelled in this Amendment. Claims 8-11 remain withdrawn from consideration. No claims have been added.

Conclusion

In summary, claims 16-20 and 3-7 (which depend from allowed independent claim 16) meet the substantive requirements for patentability. This case is in appropriate condition for allowance. Accordingly, such action is respectfully requested. If a telephone or video conference would expedite allowance or resolve any further questions, such a question is invited at the convenience of the Examiner.

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S/N: 10/722,999 Reply to Office Action of August 30, 2006

Please charge any fees or credit any overpayments as a result of the filing of this paper to our Deposit Account No. 02-3978.

Respectfully submitted,

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